

## [How R. R. came to Niobrara, Nebraska]

[?] [??] [???] Dup

FORM C [?] of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER [??] ADDRESS [Niobrara?], Nebr.

Date SUBJECT How R. R. came to Niobrara Nebraska

This is a tale of how a pioneer community fought a mighty railroad and won!

Niobrara wanted a railroad in the year 1900, wanted it badly. [Verdigre?], twelve miles south of Niobrara was [rail?] end for the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley R. [Y.?] They wouldn't come a foot further. So Niobrara resolved to build the railroad herself! The idea is supposed to have originated in a conversation in the early fall of 1900 between E. A. [?], Niobrara attorney, and Ed. A. Fry, well known pioneer newspaper man, now deceased. These two got in touch with one William [Lambert?] a well known railroad promoter at Pottsville, Pa. Who had just finished financing the Kansas City Southern R. [Y.?] from Kansas City, Mo. to Port Arthur, Texas. Mr. Lambert agreed to come west and investigate for a hundred dollars. The hat was passed at Niobrara.

Mr. Lambert came, [?], was satisfied and agreed to attempt to interest capital in building the proposed railroad. Articles of incorporation were filed in Lincoln in November 1900, and the Niobrara, Missouri River and Black Hills R. Y. Co. was a [reality?] on paper.

E. A. Houston and Ed. A. Fry became president and secretary, respectively of the new railroad. On the day that the articles of Incorporation were filled filed, the business men of Niobrara [?] forth in buggies at dawn to buy up the right-of-way for Niobrara, Missouri River and Black Hills R. [Y.?] Co. between Niobrara and [Verdigre?].

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By nightfall the new railroad had that right-of-way. Meanwhile the officials of the Fremont Elkhorn and Missouri Valley R. [Y.?] had become alarmed. The Niobrara R. [Y.?] [???], South Dakota directly across the Missouri from Niobrara. Who could say that they were not the ones behind the new railroad which would tap the rich resources of the [?] Country in South Dakota? It is suspected that the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri R. [Y.?] officials fell into something a panic. [?] action followed. On Thanksgiving day, 1900 a large force of Civil Engineers and [?] men arrived in Niobrara under command of George F. [?], Gen'l manager of the Fremont line.

They now wanted to build the railroad. The new line for [?] consideration sold the Fremont people their right-of way. And in the spring of 1901 the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley R. [Y.?] reached Niobrara!

It is now part of the Northwestern line extending to [?] South Dakota, a lasting monument to the steel nerve and [??] of the pioneer business men of Niobrara, for there was not at any time money enough in the treasury of the Niobrara, Missouri River and Black Hills, R. [Y.?] Co. to lay a single mile of track.

Niobrara Oh, there is a little city (And we think its rather pretty) In a corner of Nebraska  
By the old Missouri's shore Here the highland joins the lowland, One swift river meets  
another, Niobrara joins Missouri By the Niobrara shore.

And this town of Niobrara At the meeting of the rivers, Could remember, if it chose to,  
Stirring times of days of years. See in [?] the [?] From [?] the muddy river Watch the  
gurgling water rising, And begin to flood the [?!] Hear the shouting and the crying In the  
darkness of the night, Of the citizens [?] From the icy rivers [?!] See the blazing [?] rising,  
On the east and on the west, While the Indians [??] talking, And the [???]. [?] the cowboys  
up from Texas [?] the old Missouri River, Longhorn cattle sadly struggling In the [?] of the

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[?]. These and other things as thrilling, [?] could remember, Stirring times, now dim and distant, Of the past's forgotten [?].